

RESOLUTION NO.: 12-99

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA, URGING THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AUTHORITIES TO ADOPT STRICTER REGULATIONS AND ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS FOR VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT AND IN PARTICULAR, PROVIDING A PRE-PAID SELF-ADDRESSED MAILING ENVELOPE TO RETURN THE SIGNED BALLOT TO THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS; ENHANCING THE PENALTY FROM A MISDEMEANOR TO A FELONY FOR VIOLATING THE LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS THAT MAY BE PICKED-UP BY A THIRD-PARTY; REQUIRING A WITNESS TO ATTEST THE VOTER'S SIGNATURE ON THE VOTER'S CERTIFICATE; REQUIRING THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF ANY PERSON ASSISTING THE ELECTOR IN MARKING THE BALLOT TO BE PRINTED ON THE MAILING ENVELOPE WITH THE ENCLOSED BALLOT; LIMITING THE NUMBER OF BALLOTS ANY ONE PERSON CAN SIGN AS A WITNESS; MAKING TIMELY PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS WARNING THE PUBLIC OF THE RISKS OF FRAUD WHEN VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT; REQUIRING SIGNATURES ON VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS AND OFFERING VOTERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO UPDATE VOTER SIGNATURES ON VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS EVERY FOUR YEARS.

**WHEREAS**, voter fraud erodes confidence in our democracy by undermining the credibility and legitimacy of our election process;

**WHEREAS**, voter fraud threatens our nation's core principles of liberty and justice for all and deprives us of honest political leadership;

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**WHEREAS**, absentee ballot voter fraud is one of the most frequent instances of fraud; and

**WHEREAS**, adopting stricter measures would minimize the risk of fraud when voting by absentee ballot.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA, THAT:

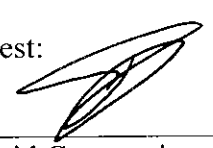
**Section 1.** The foregoing facts and recitations contained in the preamble of this resolution are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

**Section 2.** The Mayor and the City Council of the City of Hialeah, Florida urge the State of Florida and Miami-Dade County Authorities to adopt stricter regulations and additional safeguards for voting by absentee ballot and in particular, providing a pre-paid self-addressed mailing envelope to return the signed ballot to the Supervisor of Elections; enhancing the penalty from a misdemeanor to a felony for violating the limitation on the number of ballots that may be picked-up by a third-party; requiring a witness to attest the voter's signature on the voter's certificate; requiring the name and address of any person assisting the elector in marking the ballot to be printed on the outside of the mailing envelope with the enclosed ballot; limiting the number of ballots any one person can sign as a witness; making timely public service announcements warning the public of the risks of the fraud when voting by absentee ballot; requiring signatures on voter registration cards and offering voters the opportunity to update voter signatures on voter registration cards every four years.

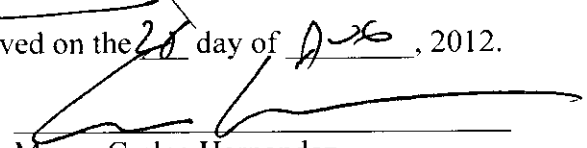
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2012.

  
Isis Carola Martinez  
Council President

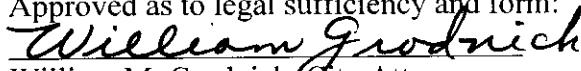
Attest:

  
David Concepcion, City Clerk

Approved on the 28 day of August, 2012.

  
Mayor Carlos Hernandez

Approved as to legal sufficiency and form:

  
William M. Grodnick, City Attorney

Resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote with Councilmembers, Caragol, Casals-Muñoz, Cue-Fuente, Garcia-Martinez, Gonzalez, Hernandez and Lozano voting "Yes".